

## Sinowatz indicted

VIENNA (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz and two other former ministers have been charged with complicity in illegal arms sales to Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, the APA news agency said Sunday. APA quoted Justice Minister Egmont Forreger as saying Sinowatz, former Interior Minister Karl Blecha and former Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz were charged with illegally allowing arms sales to a country at war but had so far not been accused of violating Austria's neutrality laws.

(See earlier story on page 5)

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## Iraq cuts short journalists' visits

LONDON (R) — Iraq is limiting the stay of visiting foreign journalists to four to five days to make room for hundreds of others queuing to visit Baghdad, Iraq's Information Director Naji Al Hadithi said Sunday. Hadithi, speaking on the telephone from Baghdad, was commenting on a French television report that Iraq was expelling foreign correspondents. He said that about 200 foreign journalists were in Baghdad and Iraq was only limiting the time they could stay so that they could issue visas to others. Hundreds of others were waiting to come, he added. Foreign reporters in Baghdad also contacted by phone, confirmed that their stay had been limited to five days.

## Shevardnadze in North Korea

TOKYO (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in North Korea Sunday for talks which diplomatic said would cover tension on the Korean peninsula. North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Young Nam greeted Shevardnadze at Pyongyang airport, the Korea Central News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Tokyo. Shevardnadze arrived from Harbin in northeastern China where he held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qiao Qichen on the Gulf crisis.

## Britain considering Iraq air blockade

LONDON (R) — Britain is considering the feasibility of imposing an air blockade on Iraq. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a radio interview Sunday: "We are looking at this. We are looking at the countries over whose territory such aircraft would have to fly," he told British Broadcasting Corporation radio from Oman during a tour of Gulf states. "It is not a major problem at the moment. One of the calculations is that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein will run out of money to pay for such air shipments because the oil trade would be blocked. It may have to be instituted. We are considering it in London and elsewhere how one would set about that."

## 'ASEAN may be willing to mediate'

MANILA (R) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Sunday that the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) may be willing to mediate in the Gulf crisis but Iraq did not appear to be interested in the offer. Manglapus was speaking at a news conference after holding talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz about the crisis prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. "I told him of the interests of the Philippines to engage in peaceful solutions and mentioned that ASEAN has experience in this because of the Cambodian conflict. The Philippines is ready to do it alone or in partnership with ASEAN," Manglapus said. He said Aziz did not say if he was interested in taking up the offer and gave no further details of the proposal. ASEAN groups Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and the Philippines.

## U.S. casualties in Gulf war seen as 20,000 or more

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States could lose 20,000 to 30,000 dead or wounded troops in a full-scale war with Iraq, U.S. News and World Report magazine said in its current edition. The magazine said the casualty estimate came from the joint chiefs of staff and the National Security Council. The size of the casualty estimate convinced President George Bush to seek a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis for now, the magazine said. But it said that if diplomacy did not work within another month, Bush might revise his military options.

## U.N. chief keeps door open for diplomacy

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Amman Sunday saying he was disappointed with the outcome of his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz but he left the door open for further diplomatic efforts to solve the Gulf crisis.

"As I leave Amman, I must acknowledge a certain disappointment because I had hoped for more in my discussions with Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz," he said at the end of two days of intensive discussions aimed at finding a political solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict.

"I would have liked to inform the (Security) Council that real progress was made during the discussion here in Amman but, in all honesty, I cannot do so at present, nor can I anticipate the council's reaction," he told a press conference at the Royal Palace.

He said he had expected but had not received a "clear-cut determination" from Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

But the secretary general said his disappointment would not deter him from continuing his diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. "I am prepared to continue my efforts together with (Aziz) to obtain a just and lasting solution to the problem."

The Iraqi foreign minister before leaving Amman Saturday said he remained at the secretary general's disposal and Perez de Cuellar reciprocated the offer Sunday.

"In the past two days, I have listened very carefully to all that

the minister has said regarding Iraq's political and humanitarian concerns," Perez de Cuellar said. "I shall certainly convey these to the Security Council upon my return to New York," he added.

Senior Jordanian officials close to the talks in their status as observers spoke of a "glimmer of hope" which Perez de Cuellar took with him and also left behind after his discussions with Aziz.

Aziz, in his statement Saturday, also kept the door open for negotiations. He said that the only solution was an "Arab solution" but "this does not mean that the international community is not involved or interested... (it) does not mean the United Nations has no role..."

The foreign minister said Perez de Cuellar "must be with us, with his wisdom, time, help and encouragement" to help reach a solution to the crisis.

The Jordanian officials based their optimism on the fact that the U.N.-Iraq meetings took place at all, that they were held in Amman, and that the secretary general will be meeting His Majesty King Hussein, which provides another opportunity for continued dialogue.

The secretary general said earlier that he was looking forward to his meeting with the King in Paris so the King could help his efforts.

The officials said the fact that the Amman meeting took place at all and that they were thorough was an indication that there was hope of continued dialogue and may even positive results through quiet diplomacy. The venue of the meeting also indicated that both sides believed in

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## Maghreb seeks common ground on Gulf

ALGIERS (R) — Maghreb states opened talks Sunday to find common ground on the Gulf crisis which puts their fledgling union to the test.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania were likely to discuss new Libyan proposals for ending the crisis triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, diplomats said.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sidahmed Ghozali, in brief remarks to Reuters, described the meeting as "consultations" on a common stance rather than a peace initiative. The ministers immediately went into a closed session.

Morocco is at odds with the rest of the Arab Maghreb Union, formed last year as the framework for a common market, over the deployment of U.S. and other Western forces in the Gulf.

Morocco has joined Saudi Arabia and 10 other Arab states in endorsing the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. troops in the region, seen by other Maghreb states as a source of tension.

Rabat has also sent a token force of 1,200 men to Saudi Arabia.

Maghreb countries have so far responded to the crisis on their own, not as a group, and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi on Saturday unveiled a peace plan that links an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait with a pullout of U.S. forces from the region.

U.N. troops would replace the Iraqis in Kuwait and Arab and Islamic peacekeepers would take over from the U.S. and other Western forces.

The Libyan plan would require Kuwait to give up the northern Gulf islands of Bubiyan and Warba and the disputed Rumailah oilfield, all claimed by Iraq.

Tunisia, which has refused to attend Arab meetings on the crisis, has sent envoys of its own to world capitals and the Gulf urging a peaceful settlement.

All five countries support an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an Arab role in solving the crisis.

## Americans, Europeans fly home from Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

HUNDREDS OF foreign women and children held in Iraq, including some who had been held at potential military targets, flew to freedom Sunday on jetliners from Baghdad.

A chartered Iraqi Airways Boeing 747, carrying more than 300 Westerners, arrived near Washington Sunday after stopovers at Orly international airport outside Paris at 4:05 a.m. (0205 GMT) and Heathrow airport in London about three hours later.

The jet, with as many as 55 Americans on board, landed at Dulles international airport outside Washington at about 1330 GMT. The passengers, including 250 women and 61 children, were aboard the Lufthansa Airbus, including 71 Germans and 60 Americans.

On Saturday, 68 Japanese women and children arrived in Amman on the first flight to leave Iraq.

Twelve other Japanese women and children, dependents of diplomats at Japan's embassy in Baghdad, arrived Sunday on a scheduled Iraqi Airways flight.

The eight women and four children were not able to make the

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## Jewish immigration hits monthly record

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Soviet Jews brought immigration to Israel in August to its highest level since the early years of the Jewish state, an immigration official said Sunday.

Yehuda Weinraub, of the semi-governmental Jewish Agency, told Reuters that 18,824 immigrants, 17,484 of them from the Soviet Union, arrived last month, raising the number of newcomers since the start of the year to 93,760.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month that the Israeli mission in Moscow had issued 300,000 visas. Officials predict one million Soviet arrivals over the next five years.

Arabs have voiced fears that the tide of new Israeli could dispossess Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and make a stronger Jewish state less inclined to make peace with the Arabs.



**LEST WE FORGET:** Women and children Sunday stage a demonstration in Amman on the eve of the 999th day of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories (see page 3). An official statistical bulletin issued by the Palestine Information Centre in Amman said Sunday that seven Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the occupied territories and 1,183 Palestinians were injured in confrontation with Israeli forces in August. The statement

said that 28 Palestinian women suffered miscarriages due to inhaling gases; 769 were detained or arrested and Israeli military courts passed sentences against 341 Palestinians including 28 children under 15 years of age. In addition it said Israeli authorities demolished 33 Arab homes, dismissed 20 teachers from schools and uprooted 30 fruit trees. Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan

## PLO lambasts Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday condemned what it described as the unjust Egyptian media campaign against the Palestinian people and its legitimate struggle and said the PLO held Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak fully responsible for the campaign.

In a statement issued Sunday at the end of two days of meetings in Tunis, the Palestinian leadership said it viewed the continuation of the "frenzied Egyptian campaign against the Palestinians as premeditated and intentional and initiated at the highest Egyptian levels."

The statement, a copy of which was telecast to the Jordan Times, said that the "official Egyptian media are launching unjust, fierce and intentional media campaigns against the Palestinian people at a time when the whole Arab Nation has to exercise extreme care and shoulder pan-Arab responsibilities."

"These daily campaigns are paramount to instigation against the Palestinian people, and holding them responsible for whatever events that took place in the region, starting with acts of aggression and ending with participation in the military operations," the statement said.

"A group of mean Egyptian journalists who do not pay any respect for any sanctity or live up to their responsibility are now pursuing their lies, reversing facts and spreading their poisonous rumours about the Palestinian people and their leadership."

"It is genuine desire and interest to safeguard the unity of the Arab fold and out of its pan-Arab responsibility to find a way out of the current serious situation, which threatens the very existence of our Arab Nation, the PLO has kept silent for a long time, but it cannot do so any longer, given this criminal Egyptian campaign, which coincides and complies with the poisons puffed by the Israeli and some foreign media, which have had their worst reflections on the security and existence of the Palestinian people."

## Regent meets top U.N. officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday reviewed with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar political efforts made to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

At a meeting attended by the U.N. secretary general's aides and United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) Mohammad Al Assafi, Prince Hassan reviewed with Perez de

Assafi the international efforts to provide relief services to the thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for a speedy solution to the evacuees' problem.

Prince Hassan said international organisations and the countries to which those evacuees belong should do their best to meet the evacuees' basic needs and to ensure their quick repatriation.

## Gulf conflict would damage East-West relations — Pravda

MOSCOW (Agencies) — East-West relations would be one of the casualties of any armed conflict between the United States and Iraq, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday.

A Pravda commentary, written before Saturday night's announcement of a snap Soviet-U.S. summit, said there were still grounds to hope for a political solution to avert catastrophe.

"However, I would rate the chances at only 50-50," commentator Gennady Vasilev wrote. "Not only would people fall victim to such action, not only the oil refineries, but something that at first glance may seem less tangible, but is in fact very, very important — the process, still only in its early stages, of humanizing relations between East and West."

At their Helsinki summit next

(Continued on page 4)

## Syria poised to hit Aoun

BEIRUT (R) — Syria and its Lebanese allies are preparing to topple defiant General Michel Aoun this month while his ally Iraq is embroiled in the Gulf crisis, officials and political sources said Sunday.

"If Aoun is not ousted and we do not start spreading the authority of the Lebanese government over the country by the end of September, we will face a major downfall," Defence Minister Albert Mansour said in an interview published Sunday.

Political sources said the decision to force Aoun to step down was taken at a meeting last week between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon, and his ally Rival President Elias Hrawi.

Aoun, who leads 15,000 mainly Christian troops, is holding out at the presidential palace in the Christian enclave. He refuses to recognise Hrawi and rejects a peace accord brokered by the Arab League to end 15 years of civil war.

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## Habash in Iraq, but no plan to move base to Baghdad

By Marium M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader George Habash was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday but Habash's first visit to the Iraqi capital in 14 years does not signal any transfer of his base from Damascus, informed sources here said.

Habash, 64, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), has been outside Syria since a few days before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and he passed through Amman Friday on his way to the Iraqi capital, said the sources, insisting on anonymity.

"There are no plans at this point in time for any transfer of the PFLP base to Baghdad," said one of the sources, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "Most of the members of the PFLP Central Committee are in Syria, and even if Habash wanted to switch his headquarters to Baghdad it cannot be an overnight process since it will

involve a lot of preparations." The source said when contacted by the Jordan Times to verify agency reports that Habash had in fact "transferred" his base to the Iraqi capital.

Radio Baghdad reported the meeting between Saddam and Habash, who last visited Baghdad in 1976 during the heyday of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which grouped Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PFLP is the second largest faction in the PLO after Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah and any switch in its relations with Iraq and Syria — archfoes for over a decade — would have a major impact on the overall Palestinian scene, particularly after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and Syria's contribution to an Arab force deployed in Saudi Arabia to counter the Iraqi presence in Kuwait.

According to Azmi Khawaja, an Amman-based member of the PFLP politburo, Habash was seeking to open a representative office in addition to the embassy of the State of Palestine.

## Voluntary societies offer centres for training

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has opened all its 118 centres around the country for the public to train in civil defence and first aid operations.

The announcement was made by GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib who said that, in cooperation with the Civil Defence Department, GUVS centres will be available not only for training but will also offer whatever they can afford in terms of first aid requirements as well as food and clothing in times of need.

GUVS, Khatib said, has also been providing free meals and other in-kind assistance to the evacuees now housed in gathering centres in Jordan.

Commenting on the outcome of Friday's campaign to raise funds and collect contributions for the benefit of the Iraqi children, Khatib said in a statement to the local press that a total of 1,000 children took part in the campaign, using 100 vehicles and small cars.

## Thatcher pursues tough line

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a television interview broadcast Sunday, made a scathing attack on President Saddam Hussein warning him he could be tried for "war crimes."

The interview was recorded Saturday as diplomats finalised arrangements that led to the release of 200 British women and children held by the Iraqis.

Thatcher warned Iraq that it could be hauled before an international court for its actions following its invasion of Kuwait a month ago and prosecuted for "war crimes" as Germans were tried at Nuremberg after World War II.

"If anything happened to those hostages then sooner or later when any hostilities were over we could do what we did at Nuremberg and prosecute the requisite people for their totally uncivilised behaviour," she said.

"I do not want them to think they are going to get away with it because they won't," she told Britain's ITV network.

Thatcher was aware then that British women and children were about to be released and her comments suggested that their safe return would not weaken her resolve to stand up to Iraq.

Thatcher was unrestrained in her criticism of Saddam and said the holding of "hostages" would not prevent Britain from taking all "necessary" action against him.

Thatcher said sanctions against Iraq should be given a few months to work.

"I do believe it will take time for sanctions to work. I think it is just becoming obvious some are beginning to work," she said.

Asked if the commitment of British warplanes and ships to the Gulf was open-ended, she said: "It may be undated because we cannot foresee the future... we do not rule out the military option. It would be most unwise to do so."

Thatcher was the first Western ally to join the United States in rushing military forces to the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2 and she reiterated her view that other European nations were slow to act.

## Masaadeh visits evicuee camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh Sunday inspected two centres housing nearly 30,000 evacuees who fled the Gulf region to Jordan and was briefed on the services offered them by the various philanthropic organisations and an ad hoc government committee.

The minister visited the Amman International Fair Centre and Madaba district and talked to officials and volunteers providing relief services to the expatriates.

According to an official accompanying Masaadeh on the tour, the government committee supervising relief work for the expatriates has been providing three light meals to them on a daily basis and medical services to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

The official said that most of the evacuees in the two centres had travelled to Jordan by land through the Ruweished border crossing point.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the present number of evacuees in Jordan Sunday evening was 80,000. Most of these evacuees, the agency said, are housed in Shaalan One and



Salem Masaadeh

Shaalan Two camps near the Iraqi border, and the rest are put up at Al Azraq camp, which can accommodate up to 30,000, the Amman International Fair Centre at Marj Al Hamam, and camps in Madaba and Aqaba.

The statement said that the ad hoc committee in charge of the evacuees was trying to separate various nationalities in different locations as best as possible.

## Hundreds of women and children leave Iraq at last

NICOSIA (R) — About 700 Western and Japanese women and children and several elderly or frail men have flown out from Baghdad a month after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

There are still around two million foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait including some 10,000 Westerners and Japanese, many of them held back at key installations to deter any attack by U.S. and other foreign forces in the Gulf following the Aug. 2 invasion.

It's unknown how many of the foreigners still held in Iraq and Kuwait are women and children.

Following are latest estimates of foreigners in the two countries:

	Kuwait	Iraq
Egypt	110,000	1.2 million
Iran	40,000	unknown
Palestinians	300,000	170,000
Morocco	6,000	30,000
Tunisia	1,550	2,000
Turkey	2,480	up to 4,000
Bangladesh	59,800	15,000
India	167,000	10,000
Pakistan	87,700	up to 10,000
Sri Lanka	90,900	unknown
China	0	5,000
Hong Kong	19 in Kuwait and Iraq	unknown
Indonesia	688	344
Japan	19	0
Malaysia	0	unknown
Philippines	43,000	5,000
South Korea	13	456
Taiwan	0	perhaps 1
Thailand	30	3,000
Bulgaria	9	900
Czechoslovakia	29 in Kuwait and Iraq	257
East Germany	0	182
Hungary	33	2,120
Poland	0	9,000
Soviet Union	92	7,000
Argentina	51	in Kuwait and Iraq
Brazil	330	in Kuwait and Iraq
Chile	7	in Kuwait and Iraq
Mexico	17	in Kuwait and Iraq
Western nationals	about 3,160	in Iraq and Kuwait
Britain	about 2,900	in Iraq and Kuwait
Australia	70	70
Austria	unknown	in Kuwait and Iraq
Belgium	51	200
Canada	500	16
Cyprus	29	86
Denmark	86	in Kuwait and Iraq
Finland	33	in Kuwait and Iraq
France	497	in Kuwait and Iraq
Greece	180	30
Ireland	50	390
Italy	100	325
Luxembourg	195	4
Netherlands	37	in Kuwait and Iraq
New Zealand	12	32
Norway	20	36
Portugal	20	60
Spain	59	in Kuwait and Iraq
Sweden	2	70
Switzerland	42	in Kuwait and Iraq
West Germany	662	in Kuwait and Iraq

## American senators support moves in Gulf

DHAHRAN (AP) A delegation of U.S. senators Saturday brought mail and words of support to American troops in Saudi Arabia, with two saying the Middle East crisis had changed their views on sales of U.S. arms to the Saudis.

The 14-member delegation received 30-minute briefings from the commander of American forces in the Middle East, General Normal Schwarzkopf, before heading to a number of American base camps in northeast Saudi Arabia.

"We're going to get rid of Saddam Hussein, and we'll bring you guys home," Carl Levin, a Democratic senator from Michigan told one group of soldiers.

Senator David Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, said the longer the standoff dragged on the greater the risk for Saddam.

Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat, said Schwarzkopf told the senators the United States' mission remained a defensive one and that no attack on Baghdad was planned for now.

Cranston, a pro-Israel lawmaker who has vociferously opposed past sales of high-tech U.S. arms to the Saudis, said the current crisis had convinced him "we should make available what they need."

Cranston said the United States could alleviate Israeli concerns by making additional weapons available for sale to them as well.

"I was the leader of the opposition, but not any more," Cranston said of military sales to the Saudis. "Now they are allied with us, they are sitting on the front lines, they will take the first casualties."

Another fierce defender of Israel in the Senate, New York Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan, said he too was convinced the Saudis now were deserving of further U.S. military equipment.

Several senators said they wished more nations would join in the multinational defense force.

"I would like to see some of the Western European nations being more supportive," said Senator John Glenn, an Ohio Democrat. Glenn, the former astronaut, rode in the cockpit of a C-130 Hercules transport plane for one leg of the trip.

The senators took notes from soldier constituents and promised to contact family back home. They also brought boxes of mail and words of support.

The leader of the delegation, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, arrived with three boxes of mail.

Aides said the boxes contained 600 pieces of mail from Pell's constituents in Rhode Island.

The Saturday visit was the second by a congressional delegation — eight senators came earlier in the week — and a third was due Sunday. A group of U.S. congressmen visit sailors Saturday aboard the USS *La Salle*.

If the troops were looking for word on when they might be coming home, they were disappointed.

Glen said the "international squeeze play" was taking its toll. "But how long it takes, nobody knows — anywhere from six weeks to six months and beyond."

The group of congressmen who visited sailors aboard the USS *La Salle* Saturday, brought messages of optimism and support to the men on the naval task force command vessel.

There are six Americans, three Britons, two West Germans and an Italian held in Lebanon. Irishman Brian Keenan was freed last month after more than four years in the USS *La Salle*.

If the troops were looking for word on when they might be coming home, they were disappointed.

"Tehran has in the past used the hostages as a bargaining chip for better relations with the West, but following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia, all this has changed," one senior source told Reuters.

Iran has condemned the invasion of Iraq, against which it fought an eight year war in the Gulf, and is backing U.N. sanctions.

Another source said: "The release of Keenan, who is a Briton as much as he is Irish, was a very significant message. The message is this: Iran is willing to overlook the complicated affair of Salman Rushdie."

London and Tehran cut political links in 1988 after Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death edict against Indian-born British author Rushdie for "blasphemy against Islam" in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

An expert in Iranian affairs said the question of relations with the West had caused conflict between hardliners and moderates in Tehran on how to deal with the hostage issue.

## U.N. chief's statement

Following is the full text of the U.N. secretary general's opening statement at Sunday's press conference.

AS YOU KNOW, I arrived in Amman on the evening of Aug. 30. I am now about to depart for Paris where, together with the president of France, I will open an important United Nations conference and where I also hope to meet His Majesty King Hussein.

During the past two days, I have had several hours of discussion with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, Mr. Tareq Aziz. He invited me to meet with me urgently in order to engage in a full exchange of views on the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. I did so out my deep concern about the escalating tension in the region and the need to avert a further deterioration of the situation. In our meetings, I impressed on the minister the gravity with which the Security Council views the crisis, as evidenced in the five resolutions that have been adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

In this context, I mentioned to the minister that the United Nations as a whole was committed to the approach adopted by the Security Council and that my own initiative had to be viewed in the framework of decisions taken by the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Despite the difficulties apparent to me before I came to Amman, I acted out of my strong conviction, as well as my sense of duty, that all possible means of achieving a peaceful solution had to be explored.

In the past two days, I have listened very carefully to all that the minister has said regarding Iraq's political and humanitarian concerns, and I shall certainly convey these to the Security Council upon my return to New York. On the political side, the minister stressed to me, as he has stated publicly, that his government would take no step that could escalate the military situation. On the humanitarian side, the minister drew particular attention to the need for adequate food and medical supplies to the people of Iraq. During our exchanges on the humanitarian issues, I welcomed the decision of the government that all women and children from third countries would be permitted to leave Iraq if they so wished. However, I emphasised that this decision should be followed by another, namely that restrictions on the movement of all third country nationals should be lifted.

In the course of our discussions, I suggested ways of dealing with all aspects of the crisis. The minister, for his part, while indicating to me his government's views, stressed in particular the need for an Arab solution. In reply I told him that while I fully shared his government's assessment that a solution of the crisis would require a major Arab role, the international dimension to the conflict had to be acknowledged. The global interests involved, the large build-up of forces in the area and the presence in Iraq and Kuwait of many third country nationals made it clear that the United Nations, as well as Arab governments, would have to be involved in resolving the many issues at stake.

As I leave Amman, I must acknowledge a certain disappointment because I had hoped for more in my discussions with Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. Given the obvious importance of the role of the Security Council, I shall brief its members on the talks on my return to New York. I would have liked to inform the council that real progress had been made during the discussions here in Amman but, in all honesty, I cannot do so at present, nor can I anticipate the council's reaction. However, in the interest of all concerned, I hope that efforts will continue to be made to explore ways of advancing the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis, concerning the gravity and dangers of which there should be no illusion. We all need to work with a sense of determination and urgency.

## 'Lebanon's hostages to go free in weeks'

BEIRUT (R) — The 12 Western hostages in Lebanon will be free within the next few weeks and a British captive could be released later this month, sources close to the Iranian government said Sunday.

The Lebanese sources said the hostages, believed held by pro-Iranian groups, had "lost their bargaining value" because of the profound political shift in the region caused by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"The Iranians are in a race against time. They will lose if the issue drags on... so the release process that has already started, will pick up pace in the coming few weeks," said one of the sources.

There are six Americans, three Britons, two West Germans and an Italian held in Lebanon. Irishman Brian Keenan was freed last month after more than four years in the USS *La Salle*.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Yemeni leader, Bush confer on Gulf

SANA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh spoke with U.S. President George Bush by telephone Saturday about ways of averting war in the Gulf, Sanaa Radio reported. It said the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations in addition to the latest developments in the Gulf. The radio also reported that the religious affairs minister of the exiled Kuwaiti government, Mohammad Nasser Al Hamdan, had arrived for talks with Yemeni officials. Hamdan, sent to Sanaa by the deposed Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was the first Kuwaiti official to visit Yemen since Iraqi troops overran Kuwait on Aug. 2. Yemen has asked Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and called on the two countries to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but it has also criticised the buildup of U.S. and other Western forces in the area as a threat to the entire Arab World.



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## Acts performed; on to substance and real issues

IN THE just ended meetings between Javier Perez de Cuellar and Tareq Aziz, both sides performed their acts as expected. The United Nations secretary general came to Amman to ask Iraq to implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Iraqi foreign minister came to ask that his country be given the opportunity to present its case. In actual terms there were no losers and no winners in the sense that there was neither a breakthrough nor a breakdown in the talks. Meanwhile the standoff continues until the point in time arrives when a way out is found to the satisfaction of both sides. From a strictly legal point of view, the case against Iraq appears to be a cut and dry one. From an equity point of view, however there is more to the Kuwaiti situation than meets the eye. The jurisprudence of equity is a well-founded juridical discipline that gives priority to justice over legal niceties. Viewed against this backdrop, Iraq is surely entitled as suggested by its foreign minister to an opportunity to explain its grievances. Imagine, if you will, a court of law rendering a judgement on an important issue in the kind of haste demonstrated by the United Nations Security Council in dealing with the Gulf crisis. Nowhere in the annals of the United Nations or the records of the United Nations Security Council has there been a precedent for the speed, swiftness and one-sidedness demonstrated over the Kuwaiti situation. It will be recalled that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 took many days and nights of painstaking negotiations before it was adopted. [As a matter of fact, SCR 242 was adopted nearly three weeks after the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the Arabs.] This is not to mention that over two decades have elapsed and this resolution has yet to be implemented. This is where the Iraqi case is strongest against the United Nations Security Council.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Ra'i** Arabic daily Sunday welcomed a statement by Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister, in which he said that his country will not serve as a launching ground for aggression on Iraq; and it expressed hope that other Arab countries in the Gulf will follow suit. With this statement, and with Iraq's repeated announcements that it will never launch any act of aggression on Saudi Arabia, the world should take a breathing space and should feel that with such attitudes the tension is certain to be defused and war averted, the paper noted. This Saudi Arabian announcement brought to the region a ray of hope amid the beating of the drums of war by certain Western circles, the paper added. What is really needed now is to give impetus to the Arab solution and Arab mediation such as that which is spearheaded by His Majesty King Hussein who has been relentlessly working to achieve peace, the paper said. Iraq for its part has repeatedly said had no interest in attacking Arab countries, and was seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis through Arab mediation backed by United Nations efforts, the paper continued. Therefore, the paper said, the Arab countries ought to work together to prevent any foreign tampering with their affairs and should join hands to safeguard the nation's interests.

A columnist in **Al Ra'i** Sunday bitterly criticises the attitude of the Soviet Union and says in all it says and does Moscow is showing contradictions, prompting Arab bitterness and frustration. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says while Moscow announces its support for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and refuses to send troops to Saudi Arabia, it votes in the U.N. Security Council for a resolution, allowing the United States to play the role of the policeman of the world. Of course the Soviet Union is now preoccupied with the various economic issues and the rebellions of the Soviet republics, but this preoccupation could be of America's making to have the door wide open to play its evil role elsewhere in the world, says the writer. By withdrawing from the world's political and military arena, Moscow is encouraging the United States to act unopposed in different areas of the world, and in a manner that would deprive the Soviet Union of friends, rights and interests, continues the writer. He says that contradictions in the statements and the actions of the Soviet leadership is bound to have adverse effects on Moscow's interests worldwide.

**Al Dustour** daily referred in its editorial Sunday to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the international organisations to provide urgent assistance to Jordan to help it cope with the burden caused by the influx of foreign expatriates. The paper said that in the coming few weeks Jordan could be flooded by one quarter of a million people of different nationalities, causing insurmountable difficulties and hardships for the Kingdom and placing heavy strain on its meagre economy. The paper said that the world community has failed in providing sufficient help and humanitarian assistance to Jordan which, through its limited resources, is trying hard to provide relief assistance to the evacuees. Many of the diplomatic missions have ignored Jordan's call for help and have failed even to take care of their own nationals in terms of accommodation, relief supplies and transportation, said the paper. As Jordan struggles to provide humanitarian assistance to the stranded evacuees, the paper said, it would like to see serious cooperation coming from the world community through its various organisations.

## Weekly political pulse

# Gulf standoff threatens world's political stability

WASHINGTON is on record that it will not start a shooting war against Iraq albeit its massive deployment of land, sea and air troops suggest otherwise. Iraq is also on record, confirmed by His Majesty King Hussein, that it has not designs on Saudi Arabia, the pretext for the U.S. military intervention. In theory, therefore, there is no reason to anticipate an outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf region with the exception of minor skirmishes that may naturally occur on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

In effect what we have in the Gulf is a standoff that would test the endurance of both sides to sit out the situations. What Iraq and the other side have to endure is not just

military test but the economic and political tests too. Iraq would have to endure the economic and political hardships in addition to the military pressures that are being applied against it from many fronts.

The economic and political price that the United States and its allies, both Arab and non-Arab, have to endure is even stiffer. The U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney now estimates that the costs of deploying U.S. troops in the Gulf would run to no less than a billion dollars a month. This is indeed a conservative figure and most likely the U.S. expenses would be in the tune of two billion dollars a month. The costs to the other players

on the U.S. side are even higher. All in all the Gulf crisis is steadily taking a very heavy toll on the economies of the antagonists of Iraq.

The political fallouts are even more ominous.

With the popularity of the western stance in the Gulf projected to wane with the passage of time, the steadfastness and resolve of the anti-Iraq forces may weaken considerably in due course. What may tip the balance one way or the other is the ability or inability of the other countries not immediately connected with the Gulf situations to withstand the economic hardships that have ensued from the application of U.N. sanctions against Iraq. The world economy is

already in shambles as a consequence of these sanctions and the interruption of the flow of oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

The international community is also nervous and jumpy about what could happen to the world economy should the U.S. decide to shoot its way out of the Gulf quagmire. Stock markets in the major capitals of the world are behaving very erratically because of the tension in the Middle East. Imagine what would happen to the markets should hostilities breakout in the Gulf. What is even more formidable is the economic price that the majority of world countries have to bear. Caught in the middle, they found themselves forced

to abide by the terms of the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for sanctions and boycott against Iraq. The united story about the economic costs of the sanctions and boycott resolutions has yet to be precisely gauged. If Jordan alone estimates such costs in the tune of two billion dollars a year, it is easy to imagine the magnitude of these costs globally. The question that poses itself is whether the U.N. system can afford to compensate all the affected countries of the world in the tune of \$50 billion.

The makers of the sanctions resolution obviously underestimated the economic cost of their resolution and now must devise a way to foot the bill one way or another. So while

two warring sides in the Gulf are testing their will and patience to sit out the standoff till one side or the other gives in to the other or accepts some form of modus vivendi, the majority of the international community is also asked to endure untold hardships that may outweigh the stakes involved in the Gulf region.

In due course, the United Nations Security Council needs to convene to discuss the economic dimensions of its resolutions and elaborate ways and means so deal with them. If the intention to starve Iraq into submission entails starving the peoples of the earth as well, then the Security Council has its logic and priorities all mixed up.

## Gulf crisis shows how interdependent Middle East problems are

# Jordan remains committed to its principles; regional problems are Arab responsibility

By Hussein Hammami

The writer is Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. The following is the text of an address Mr. Hammami delivered at the National Press Club in Washington on Aug. 30, 1990.

I would like to thank Mr. Shaeffer and the National Press Club for giving me this opportunity to address your distinguished group and try to shed some light on Jordan's position on the crisis in the Gulf.

Much has been said about the "peculiar" stance that Jordan has adopted since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Voices in the administration, Congress and the media have expressed "deep disappointment" at the behaviour of His Majesty King Hussein in his perceived alignment with Iraq against the "the whole world."

How can the King do this, they asked, after years of guiding Jordan on a moderate, Western-oriented course. I will try in what follows to address these questions, arguing that Jordan's position can be very clearly explained once one understands its underlying objectives. Indeed, the course that Jordan has followed is not only defensible, but more importantly, is the only one that could assure long term stability for the region at the same time guarantee the legitimate interests of the West, namely the free flow of oil. I will also address in some detail the economic effects sanctions will have on the Jordanian economy.

Jordan's main objective during this crisis, indeed the same objective that has governed its diplomacy in the area for the last two or three decades, has been a peaceful settlement to the problem that would deal with its causes and permit the countries of the region to re-devote their energies for the well being of their peoples. Jordan is thus neither siding with Iraq nor is against Kuwait. We simply seek to avert a catastrophe which would engulf the Middle East with repercussions affecting the whole world for years to come. If one thinks about the Gulf crisis in this context, one can understand the Jordanian position perfectly.

Thus, the presence of American troops in the area can only fuel radical sentiments in the Arab World, endanger the existing Arab political order, and irritate hard at Americans and Western interests in the Middle East. We have already begun to see examples of this in Jordan where for the first time ever, the radical right represented by the Muslim Brotherhood publicly joined hands with the radical left, including the Communists, against the American presence. This has far-reaching consequences on the destabilisation of the area, and on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan is concerned that any destabilisation in the area, whether resulting from a continued radicalisation of a military confrontation, would be utilised by Israel to solve its own problem at Jordan's expense. Indeed, the first casualty in the event of an outbreak of war might very well be Jordan. Even so, Jordan remains a microcosm of a larger picture, and the whole region will ultimately be the victim.

If one buys this argument, then one can begin to look at the causes of the problem and try working with them. It is dangerous to assume that the problem would be solved if only Iraq is forced to withdraw from Kuwait. That would only take care of the present symptoms. The Iraq-

Kuwaiti problem dates back much earlier than Aug. 2, and one has to look at the causes, which affect not only Iraq and Kuwait, but the whole region.

This is precisely why one cannot divorce this problem from its broader Arab context, and why Jordan is trying to solve it within an Arab context. I hope you will also agree that whatever happens in the future, there is no going back to the status quo that existed before Aug. 2, even with a full Iraqi withdrawal and despite the particularity of the Western world, has a chance of utilising the 38 years of experience of a leader in this area who has the best understanding of the West, and who has built a reputation of being a man of reason in a troubled region, that chance is brushed aside and labelled as "delaying tactics." Obviously, sanity does not sit well in a climate of frenzy.

We go back here to the question of objectives. I hope you will agree that the United States is not in Saudi Arabia merely to defend its sovereignty or to preserve the legitimacy of the Kuwaiti government. The objective is oil and it is a legitimate objective if pursued correctly. The supply of oil to the international community without interruption and at a fair price is the right of all. The debatable point, however, is the methods you are pursuing to achieve that objective. I will go further and state that what you are presently doing will only add fuel to an already troubled region. This is because the guarantee of the free flow of oil is not, and cannot ever be, one of military force. The only guarantee short of colonising the area forever, which I hope the U.S. does not intend to do, is to eliminate the causes of the crisis and to ensure that the peoples of the region look towards the U.S. and the Western world as friends, not adversaries.

More bluntly put, the U.S. cannot be an arbiter of Arab differences, and at the same time, be the strategic ally of their enemies, Israel. Arab masses question the credibility of the U.S. as the defender of the rights of the Kuwaitis to self determination when it rejects that right for the Palestinians.

Thus, the presence of American troops in the area can only fuel radical sentiments in the Arab World, endanger the existing Arab political order, and irritate hard at Americans and Western interests in the Middle East.

We have already begun to see examples of this in Jordan where for the first time ever, the radical right represented by the Muslim Brotherhood publicly joined hands with the radical left, including the Communists, against the American presence.

This has far-reaching consequences on the destabilisation of the area, and on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan is concerned that any destabilisation in the area, whether resulting from a continued radicalisation of a military confrontation, would be utilised by Israel to solve its own problem at Jordan's expense.

Indeed, the first casualty in the event of an outbreak of war might very well be Jordan. Even so, Jordan remains a microcosm of a larger picture, and the whole region will ultimately be the victim.

I dare say here that your best friends in the area are not necessarily those who say yes without giving proper advice. Short-term policies and objectives remain just that. Now that the "occupation is unacceptable" argument has been so forcefully put by the U.S., a peaceful settlement that addresses all the problems of the area has a real chance, for the first time, to get the Middle East out of its tragedy once and for all.

Let me now address some of the specific "details" regarding the Jordanian position with respect to the U.N. sanctions. I would like to take care of the present symptoms. The Iraq-

of a memorandum we have prepared to outline Jordan's possible losses due to the implementation of the sanctions.

Jordan has, due to its geographic location, extensive economic links with Iraq. Because of the magnitude of such links, such implementation will result in very serious economic repercussions that will affect not only current economic conditions but also future prospects. Accordingly, the government of Jordan has applied to the United Nations Security Council requesting consultations on this matter as provided for by Article 50 of the U.N. Charter.

The dimensions of the problem could be summarised as follows:

1) Loss of exports in the magnitude of U.S. \$200 million annually.

2) Loss in transit business estimated at U.S.\$250 million annually.

3) An increase in the cost of oil imports.

Jordan obtains from Iraq oil and fuel oil at concessionary terms with most convenient financing. Whereas during July the cost of fuel oil obtained by Jordan was around U.S.\$65 per ton, the international price was about U.S.\$110. At present the cost of C&F Agaba of one ton of fuel oil is around U.S.\$130. Should Jordan look for a new source for fuel oil, it will incur annually an additional U.S.\$36 million on its import of 800,000 tonnes of oil. In addition Jordan shall incur substantial additional costs importing about 16 million barrels of crude oil from new sources reflecting the current international price of crude oil rather than the U.S.\$16 per barrel guaranteed by Iraq thus the total increase in the cost of oil to Jordan is expected to reach U.S.\$180 million annually.

4) Loss of capital inflows in the form of repayment of debt on the part of Iraq, amounting to U.S.\$310 million.

5) A loss of U.S.\$50 million annually in grants pledged by Iraq to Jordan.

The above factors may summarise the impact of severing economic relations with Iraq. Yet, Jordan is expected to lose much more than that if its economic and financial relations with Kuwait are taken into consideration. Such relations go beyond the traditional relationships of trade to cover significant linkages in the labour and capital markets. As such Jordan stands to suffer from the following:

1) A loss of grants amounting to U.S.\$135 million as pledged by Kuwait.

2) Loss in proceeds from exports to Kuwait amounting to U.S.\$80 million annually.

3) A return of a significant part of the 100,000 Jordanians working in Kuwait along with their families (350,000 with their families).

4) A loss which could reach U.S.\$320 million in remittances that used to come from Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait.

All of the above factors taken together, whether it is in the form of reduced demand for Jordanian goods, services and labour, or in the form of reduced unremitted transfers, grants, or concessional financing will be reflected in the following:

1) Reduced output and employment and increased supply of labour both of which will seriously aggravate the unemployment problem in Jordan, and could result in an unemployment figure as high as 35%.

2) Reduced receipts of foreign

These are the facts about the economic sanctions. Yet, Jordan has repeatedly stated that it will comply with these sanctions, and has asked for a suitable compensation package. So far, all what we have obtained in return is insistence on a rigid compliance which has not been coupled with any firm offers of compensation. We ask again, are we required to commit national suicide? This insistence from several parties that ignores Jordan's obvious needs is astonishing to us.

Even so, King Hussein meant it when he said in Kennebunkport and again in a press conference in Amman last week that the least of his concerns was losses to the Jordanian economy resulting from the sanctions. "I am trying to avert a larger problem that can affect the area and maybe the world," he said. Our policy has been to try to gather support for a nucleus of an Arab solution that would be acceptable both to the parties in the region and the international community. Jordan is trying to be a voice of sanity amongst all this buildup and escalation on both sides. We hope this voice will be given a fair chance to succeed.

## Gulf conflict may damage ties

(Continued from page 1)

army, is backing United Nations economic sanctions against Baghdad. But Gorbachev has repeatedly warned that any use of armed force could have "unforeseeable consequences."

Gorbachev is also under pressure from his generals to oppose any U.S. use of force to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

On Thursday, Warsaw Pact Chief of Staff General Vladimir Lobov attacked the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf and said it could wreck East-West talks on limiting conventional arms.

The president, who was to return to Washington Monday, discussed summit preparations and recent Gulf developments with his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, aides said.

## LETTERS

### Pakistani efforts

To the Editor:

THIS is with reference to the article entitled "Coping with a 'human sea' West of Amman," by Ali Masarweh (Jordan Times Aug. 29, 1990).

While dealing in some detail with the problems of refugees and embassies, your correspondent failed to mention the efforts of the Pakistan Embassy in Amman in assisting their nationals.

Since the flow of refugees started some two weeks ago, the Pakistan Embassy has arranged accommodation for its nationals in two rented houses and a hotel. When these were not sufficient, we rented premises on the airport road, where the Amman International Motor Hotel is held and which can accommodate approximately 5,000 people.

These centres, run at the government of Pakistan's expense, are manned entirely by embassy staff, who house, feed and arrange for the return of their nationals by means of flights of Pakistan International Airlines chartered for this purpose.

Between Aug. 15 to the present, some 6,500 Pakistanis have entered Jordan, of whom 3,800 have so far been repatriated by air. The government of Pakistan have also made arrangements for a ship to call at Aqaba on Sept. 3, in which 2,000 more will be evacuated. The Jordanian government's cooperation in easing restrictions on entry into the country, providing security and medical assistance, and promptly responding to requests by the embassy relating to the task, has greatly facilitated the

# Features

## U.N. leaves door open

(Continued from page 1)

allow foreign women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait to leave. Thousands of foreigners are still being held in the two countries.

In answer to a question about a possible partial Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the secretary general said that the idea was incompatible with U.N. Security Council resolutions. "No, I cannot conceive the concept of a partial withdrawal," he said. "The Security Council resolution is very clear. It is for withdrawal and not for partial withdrawal."

At the beginning of his Amman talks, the secretary general made it clear that the five Security Council resolutions adopted after the Aug. 2 invasion would be the framework for his talks with Azziz. He said had no mandate to negotiate or make concessions. The secretary general said he had invited the Iraqi foreign minister to see whether Iraq would comply with the resolutions.

In answer to a question about Saddam's initiative linking Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Perez de Cuellar said that all Security Council resolutions should be implemented, but "one sin does not justify another sin."

"I hope what is happening now will open the eyes of those who are against attacking frontally the problem of Palestine," the secretary general said.

Asked what his role was in quiet diplomacy, which Azziz said, was needed to resolve the crisis, the secretary general said: "The situation is very explosive. You cannot say quiet diplomacy and then spend months and years dealing with the problem... we

have to act urgently."

The secretary general said he shared the Iraqi foreign minister's view that a solution to the crisis would require a major Arab role but stressed that the "international dimension of the conflict had to be acknowledged."

"The global interests involved, the large build-up of forces in the area and the presence in Iraq and Kuwait of many third country nationals made it clear that the United Nations, as well as Arab governments, would have to be involved..." Perez de Cuellar said.

Asked about his opinion on Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's seven-point peace plan, the secretary general said: "It is an interesting idea which has to be considered by the parties..."

According to the plan, Iraqi troops would withdraw from Kuwait and be replaced by United Nations forces. American and other forces, deployed in Saudi Arabia, would also be replaced by Arab or Muslim troops.

In Paris, later Sunday, Perez de Cuellar told reporters that his talks with Azziz were "not useless" and said he still held out hope that Iraq would become more accommodating.

"I am available," he told journalists after a 45-minute meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "If, at any given time, they wish to modify their position, I will be delighted to listen to them."

But he said Iraq's present position was unacceptable. "What Iraq wants is to stay in Kuwait, which is unacceptable to the international community, to the U.N. Security Council and to its secretary general."

## Westerners fly home

(Continued from page 1)

special flight for Japanese Saturday night, said Japanese sources.

Iraqi aviation authorities said earlier that about 430 foreigners had left Baghdad, but gave no breakdown. But totals provided by various airlines and diplomats indicated that nearly 700 foreigners may have gotten out.

Some of the Americans and British women interviewed at Baghdad airport before their departure said they left husbands behind as part of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's determination against attacks.

"Our husbands are being held and we don't want to put them in danger," said an American woman waiting to leave Baghdad airport on Saturday. She declined to give her name.

Another, Debbie Willis, said she and her husband, Jerry, were trying to escape across the desert from Kuwait when Iraqi troops captured them. Her husband stayed behind at a military site, she said.

Authorities held the Iraqi flight full of Americans and Britons until Jackson returned from Kuwait with 30 hostages he collected after meeting twice with Saddam.

In Baghdad, Jackson told the Associated Press: "This is a window of hope, and it must be expanded."

He said he was encouraged by his meetings with Saddam, whom he found ready to talk. "When people are willing to talk, that is a

step in the first direction," Jackson said. "There must be a cooling of the rhetoric."

Jackson said there were still nearly 2,500 Americans not accounted for in Kuwait, and more than half of those were children. Some have escaped to Saudi Arabia and many are in hiding, he said.

A similar number of Britons are missing, believed scattered in private homes for fear of discovery by Iraqi troops.

In all, about 21,000 Westerners were trapped by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

French official sources said Sunday Iraq had given permission for an Air France airliner to land in Baghdad to pick up some 30 French women and children.

They said an Airbus was ready to leave from Paris.

Baghdad diplomats said they expected the Air France plane to land in Baghdad later Sunday but did not know when.

Jackson told reporters before leaving Baghdad that Saddam had promised that all Western women and children would be free to leave within days.

Jackson said Saddam had also pledged freedom for all ill Americans.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said British diplomats in Baghdad were doing all they could to get exit visas for stranded Britons and would try to get them on board the Air France Airbus.

The number of Britons with exit visas was not known.

## Aoun

(Continued from page 1)

Security sources said some 700 soldiers loyal to Hrawi, backed by tanks and artillery, had taken up positions in the past three days near the presidential palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda.

These will not be anywhere near enough to topple Aoun but are widely seen as a vanguard for a larger force. Witnesses also saw Syrian reinforcements around the enclave.

"Lebanon is on the brink of economic collapse. We will take all necessary measures to save the country... we will try our best not to resort to force but if we have to we will do whatever the cost is," said Mansour.

At a news conference Friday Aoun ruled out the possibility of military action and described the buildup as a means of pressuring him to recognise Hrawi.

The Lebanese pound lost about half its value last month and is now around 1,000 to the dollar. It was four to the dollar as late as 1983.

"People cannot afford to buy food any more, there is a huge unemployment rate and thousands are emigrating. The country is falling apart and the government is paralysed because of Aoun," said a senior official. "This cannot go on for too long."

The peace pact stipulated reforms giving Muslims more say in the Christian-dominated political system, the disbanding of all militias and a gradual redeployment of Syrian troops away from

## Migrant workers' hostels are the tinderboxes of apartheid

By Philippe Fletcher

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG.—Separate thousands of men from their families, pack them into dormitories with nothing to do in the evenings but drink, then see what happens when someone starts a fight.

In the past two weeks South Africa has seen a full-scale war

between black people who do not belong here, except as temporary workers," said Harry Mashabela of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Often separated from the rest of the townships by a wire fence, the hostels were designed to prevent blacks penned by apartheid in 10 tribally-defined rural homelands from settling near their jobs in Johannesburg.

A man could live in a hostel as long as he was working, but his family were prevented by law from joining him.

He is making people live in those dehumanising (hostel) conditions, isolating them from the community, that has exacerbated the kind of problems that we

have," Tutu said. The hostels, huge barracks of single or double-storey blocks, were built in the black townships around Johannesburg decades ago to house extra workers for the white city.

"They were a part of this idea that black people did not belong here, except as temporary workers," said Harry Mashabela of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

At work he has his own office, but back in Tembisa township he shares a bedroom with 24 other men. Unlike many of the hostel dwellers who are Zulus, he comes from the northern Sotho tribe.

His wife and five children live in Pietersburg, 200 kilometres away. But the politically conservative rural town had no work for a black manager.

He is fortunate to be able to visit his family most weekends. Many of his fellow residents do not have enough time or money to visit their far-off homelands more than once a year.

"It's not a good life to stay in the hostel" he told Reuters. "In our room there is only one stove, one toilet and one bath. There's no privacy."

Our room is like a hall, which has just been divided to accommodate two beds in one. In each section there are two beds and two lockers, that is all."

Moloisi, 42, has lived in the hostel for 10 years. He is used to being kept awake with shouting and loud music, but recently his sleep has been disturbed by gunshots.

"On (last) Sunday one man was shot dead next to the hostel office and on Monday morning someone found a corpse on the

road outside," he said. So far Tembisa has escaped the violence which has swept through Johannesburg's townships.

About 500 people have been

shot, stabbed or burnt to death.

Moloisi says the spark for the violence may be political — a power-struggle between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha movement — but that its roots lie firmly in apartheid.

"Originally people worked

together and they didn't have

these problems, but since the

government started its 'separate

development' policy people just

feel that its better to live with

your own people," he said.

Migrant labour was a cornerstone of separate development — the policy of forcing black ethnic groups into their own tribal territories and making blacks think along tribal lines.

"The hostel manager just brings someone you don't know, and you have to persuade them to go along with what the majority of the room wants," said Moloisi.

Female visitors are not allowed and there are no recreation facilities. In the evenings the men, many of them illiterate labourers, have nothing to do but drink the alcohol sold by the hostel's unofficial entrepreneurs.

## The Spanish fan regains dignity among Europeans

By Stephen Brown

Reuter

lions understand them better," he said.

The abanico is said to have been "discovered" by Spaniards in the conquest of the Philippines, where it had arrived from China and Japan. The Philippines also produced another typical Spanish accessory, the "manton de Manila" — a large silk shawl painted with flowers and draped over the shoulders.

The "abanico" has survived air conditioning, electric fans and small battery-operated models. It is quieter and more portable than the competition and more importantly it is stylish — a cool way to keep cool.

Retailers tell of fan sales doubling or tripling in the last two years on the crest of an international wave of vogue for all things Spanish, including Bolero jackets, Flamenco music and "tapa" bars selling Spanish nibbles.

Older women never stopped using fans to fend off the crushing heat of summer, especially in Andalusia, but now the gentle flapping of fans is everywhere.

At the bullring and on the bus, in the Zarzuela (Spanish operetta) and on the metro, in trendy open-air "terraza" bars and traffic jams, they give women a bit of a breeze and a stylish air.

"In the past two years there has been a huge rise in interest in fans... not just in Spain but in Germany, France, England and above all Italy," said Ricardo Bermejo of his fan shop under the porticos of Madrid's Plaza Mayor.

Bermejo's fan sales have risen to some 6,000 a year from between 2,000 to 3,000 two years ago. He said the style-conscious Italians were the foreigners who had shown most interest. "Ita-

lyans understand them better," he said.

An all-male pop group, Locomotia, uses huge fans as part of its stage act.

But most Spanish men are more self-conscious than fashion-conscious and prefer the homely but effective folded newspaper when they are gasping for air.

Virtually all Spanish fans are manufactured in the Eastern region of Valencia, where a handful of small towns like Alcudia largely depend on small family fan firms for their livelihood.

Demand for plastic fans sold for 150 pesetas (\$1.50) each has brought some mechanisation but city cultural adviser Vicent Bosca was dismissive of such fans "turned out like hot cakes."

"The ones made by artisans are real works of art," he said. Each stage of manufacture is highly specialised. The "varillas" or ribs of wood, bone, ebony or ivory are carved or painted by hand and the cloth — silk or lace in luxury models — is stiffened and painted, often with flowers. Finally the two parts are carefully joined so that they fold properly.

A fan of bone, ebony or ivory and lace or silk, often meant for display in fan-shaped cases, costs from \$8,000 (\$82) to 150,000 pesetas (\$1,530) and a fan decorated by a master craftsman can cost 500,000 pesetas (\$5,100).

Foreign clients often ask Bermejo's wife Angela how to use the fan correctly.

"Most tourists haven't got a clue," she laughs. "The decorated side must face away from the body and one of the great secrets is to open and shut it with a loud snap."

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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# Sports

## E. Germans go out with a bang, win most medals

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (AP) — East Germany ceased to exist as a separate track and field team with a bang.

The bang will be particularly loud in West Germany, where many athletes will be fearing for their places on the team once the two federations merge in November.

The East Germans outdid all their previous performances at European Athletics Championships by collecting 34 medals, 12 of them gold.

Justly proud of their performances, the East German team ran a lap of honour at the six-day competition ended Saturday in this Adriatic port.

Carrying an East German flag, the team received thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

In comparison, the West Germans had a slim total of seven medals, only three of them gold.

Britain finished second on the gold-medal table with nine, while the Soviet Union had six. The Soviets had a total of 22 medals, while Britain had 18.

The championships provided one world and one European record, both on the last day, and established several stars.

The French men's 400-metre national relay team set a world record Sunday by clocking 37.79 seconds. The previous mark of 37.83 had been held by the Carl Lewis-led U.S. team at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The British men's 1,600-metre relay team set a European record by clocking 2 minutes, 58.22 seconds, clipping the previous mark of 2:58.86, also set by a British quartet at the 1987 World Championships in Rome.

Katrin Krabbe, a 20-year-old, long-legged East German sprinter emerged as the only triple gold medalist of the championships. She swept the 100 and 200-metre sprints and added a third with the 400-metre relay team.

Grit Breuer, an 18-year-old East German, won the gold in the 400 and the 1,600-metre relay and

is the heiress apparent to the legendary Marita Koch.

Italy's Salvatore Antibo established himself as the king of long-distance running by sweeping the 5,000 and 10,000 metres. His victory Sunday in the 5,000 was heroic. Antibo fell after colliding with Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan immediately after the start of the race. Cheered on by the crowd, Antibo slowly made up the 40-metre gap and clinched the gold medal.

The honour of winning East Germany's last individual medal went to Jens-Peter Herold, who upset British favourites Steve Cram and Peter Elliott to win the men's 1,500 metres.

Although their own athletes may be worried about losing their places on the joint team, West German track and field officials must be pleased: They are inheriting a formidable team, led by some young East German stars who look poised to win many medals at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

There was some feeling that the threat of random dope testing was beginning to bite as gold medals were won in field events with distances which would have seemed mediocre not so long ago.

The new decathlete champion Christian Plaziat of France summed up the mood after taking the gold medal with a national record of 8,574 points.

"This puts me in the top 10 of all time," he said. "But if you take out the doped athletes, I'm probably in the top three."

Krabbe faces 2 big changes

East Germany's new sprint queen, Krabbe faces two big changes in her life as she enters the world of sports stardom.

This month the blonde 20-year-old with the pony tail will get married. Later this year she becomes a member of an all-German rather than an East German team.

Grit Breuer, an 18-year-old East German, won the gold in the 400 and the 1,600-metre relay and

### Medals table

	G	S	B
E. Germany	12	12	10
Britain	9	5	4
S. Union	6	9	7
Italy	5	2	5
W. Germany	3	2	2
France	3	2	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1
Portugal	1	-	-
Czech.	1	-	-
Finland	1	-	-
Spain	-	2	-
Hungary	-	2	-
Sweden	-	1	3
Bulgaria	-	1	1
Switzerland	-	1	1
Netherlands	-	1	-
Norway	-	1	-
Romania	-	1	-
Poland	-	-	2
Austria	-	1	-

### Political division

Within the space of an hour, Snezana Pajkic and Dragutin Topic won gold medals on an emotional final day at the European Athletics Championships.

The predominantly Croat crowd at the imposing Poljud Stadium decided to ignore the fact that both athletes came from the Republic of Serbia and gave them a tumultuous reception.

Pajkic set a national record of four minutes 8.13 seconds in the women's 1,500 final by outspurting East German Ellen Kiesling and Switzerland's Sandra Gasser.

"I only hoped to do well in the race with so many famous names in it," said Pajkic, who comes from the Serbian village of Cuprija.

"But the crowd today was fantastic and I just pushed hard and passed them all. It's hard to believe I am the European champion."

The first to congratulate the tearful Pajkic was Topic, who was entering the final stages of the high jump.

The Belgrade-born jumper, who set world junior record while winning the world junior title, had expected to do well.

Two young athletes made Yugoslavia temporarily forget its

## Soviets sink China to win women's volleyball title

PEKING (R) — The Soviet Union avenged an early round loss to defeat China 3-1 and capture the women's world volleyball title.

The Soviets, reigning Olympic champions, lost in straight sets to the Chinese in a preliminary round, but this time outplayed their hosts in one hour 48 minutes to win their fifth title 15-13, 6-

15, 9-16, 16-14.

China were fired up by the cheers of a wildly partisan crowd but the Soviet squad's powerful attacks and consistent defence proved too strong for them.

The Soviets won the first set despite trailing 13-9. The two

teams swapped easy victories in the next two sets but the Soviets held off a late rally by China in the fourth and final set to seal their victory.

Irina Parhonchuk of the Soviet Union was selected as the tournament's most valuable player while Soviet coach Nikolai Karpov was named best coach.

The United States stormed back from losing the first set to upset World Cup holders Cuba and take third place 11-15, 15-

13, 15-9, 15-6.

It was the best performance by the Americans at the championships since they took third place in Peru in 1982.

## Everton continues slump; Liverpool stays at the top

LONDON (R) — It has been a bad week for Neville Southall, the disenchanted Everton goalkeeper.

In the space of seven days the Welsh international has been fined a week's wages by his club and reported to the police by angry fans who objected to his colourful language on the pitch.

He has been subjected to abuse from the stands and has seen his name appear unfavourably in popular newspapers.

His team have also lost in a lot of goals.

After three matches of the English soccer season, the only thing Everton have excelled at is losing

conceding seven goals and slumping to the bottom of the first division.

For many fans, the highly rated Southall has become the man who can do no right.

Where once they cheered, now they jeer a player who has had three transfer requests rejected but who still wants out.

On Saturday, as champions Liverpool kept up their 100 per cent winning record with 2-1 defeat of Aston Villa, their city neighbours were losing yet again — 1-0 at Manchester City.

City boasted five former Everton players in a team now managed by Howard Kendall, the man who led Everton to their last title in the 1984-85 season.

Southall was booked in the closing seconds of the match for dissent — the latest in a catalogue of mishaps this season.

In their opening match, Everton lost 3-2 at home to newly-promoted Leeds with a dejected Southall staging a bizarre sit-in alone in the goalmouth at half-time.

Southall was booked in the closing seconds of the match for dissent — the latest in a catalogue of mishaps this season.

The derby was drawn 0-0 and Gascoigne was pulled off the pitch in the closing minutes with manager Terry Venables saying later that the high-profile Southall had felt jaded from the start.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♠ J 5 4

♦ A 10 9 7 6 4 3

♥ K

♣ A

WEST ♠ K 9

♦ Void

♥ Q 9 6 5 2

♣ Q 8 5 4 ♦ J 9 7 2

EAST ♠ A

♦ 8

♥ J 10 7 4

♣ K Q 10 8 5 4 ♦ J 9 7 2

SOUTH ♠ Q 7 3

♦ K Q J 5 2

♥ A 8 3

♣ 6 3

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1: 2: 4: 3: 4: 4: 4:

Pass: 5: 5: 5: Pass

Pass: Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Even once in a while, just when you think you know all about the standard positions in the game, someone comes up with a new wrinkle. We are indebted to Terence Rees and Bridge Today for this hand.

North's three-club cue-bid did not necessarily promise control of the club suit — it was simply a forcing bid denoting slam interest. South showed a minimum opening by passing four clubs, but North was unwilling to sell but below five

hearts.

Declarer won the opening club lead in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds and drew the outstanding trump. After ruffing the club, South returned to hand with a trump, cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a spade from the table, then ruffed a diamond. That completed stripping the closed hand and dummy of minor-suit cards.

Since it was quite likely the spade honors were split, the way to hold your losers in the suit to two is to presume spades are 4-2 and, after forcing out the honor in the long hand, duck out the other honor. Since West had shown out of hearts and might have overcalled two no trump with 6-5 in the minors, declarer elected to play East for the short spades. So South made the reasonable play of a spade to the queen. West won and returned a spade, and the declarer took two more tricks in the suit — down one.

Rees points out that, if the suit is 4-2, declarer need not guess who has the long spades. Declarer should simply play a low spade from both hands first breaking the suit.

The defenders can take one more spade, but must then concede the gate by yielding a ruff-and-stuff, allowing declarer to discard a losing spade from one hand while trumping in the other.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: That considerable amount of energy and ambition you have at present can be used to gain the goodwill of a very clever and resourceful person who likes your presentation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day when your intuitive perceptions are apt to be off base and unless you carefully doublecheck on a practical plane you could make some mistakes.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't hold on to the past so tightly for there are some better ways to express yourself while you can still maintain time at usual activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) A new outlet about some public matter can be negated if you do not let go of some past interest that has been engrossing, obsessing you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can think up fixed course of action by which you will be more successful in your activities by calendering your hours within the coming days.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An outburst in which you have engaged for a considerable period of time should give way to some new more inspired interests so open-minded to them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to loll about your residence and get your health and spirits built up by not getting into any points of difference with family members.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) A day to investigate all the various schools of thought of spiritual, mental or ethical nature that are available to you and decide the one you like.

your horizons far beyond your present vision.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Try to put off making any commitment about a property matter or repair until you have had several estimates or you can be greatly overcharged.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Avoid getting bogged down in some project that has really no place to go but which are apt to have a feeling of duty to continue with.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You have a friend of rigidity in views that can hold you back in the attainment of a private goal unless you strike out on your own.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to keep out of the public eye for your need to be as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove even in innocent outside actions.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) A day to investigate all the various schools of thought of spiritual, mental or ethical nature that are available to you and decide the one you like.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

SIGN FOR THE BULL

# Economy

## Spain plans tough austerity to counter Gulf crisis effects

MADRID (R) — Spain is preparing a tough economic austerity plan to beat the effects of the Gulf crisis, mindful that failure to act quickly during the first oil crisis of the 1970s led to years of recession.

The government has yet to impose the measures, but says they will include austerity both in government spending and in the private sector and asks for union cooperation.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, in a television interview, said rising oil prices and inflation meant wages and prices must be controlled if jobs are to be saved.

"We are not prepared to allow Spain to go through the same situation of 15 years ago when we had to pay an extraordinarily high price for government indecision," he said.

Spain's economy is growing fast but is among the most vulnerable of European Community (EC) countries to rising oil prices, behind Italy, with 53 per cent of its energy needs coming from petroleum, almost all of it imported.

Gonzalez said Spaniards had to expect a ripple effect throughout the economy from higher oil prices and asked unions to accept the sacrifice of foregoing excess

utive wage demands. The alternative, he said, would be lost jobs.

Unions immediately rejected suggestions of giving up wage hikes, arguing they had held down demands for three years in solidarity with government efforts to control inflation.

"It is not fair we should be asked for more sacrifice. When things are going well the same people always benefit but when we have a crisis the workers are the ones to suffer," said General Workers' Union (UGT) leader Amaro Saracibar.

The Gulf crisis has already forced the government to raise its 1990 inflation forecast to 6.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent, dashing business hopes of an early end to tight money policies designed to cool Spain's overheating economy.

Economists say this policy has kept the peseta artificially strong with high interest rates that have not been justified. They urge the government to limit spending to beat inflation.

Government spokeswoman Soira Conde, speaking after a cabinet meeting where Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga outlined plans to face the Gulf crisis, said the 1991 budget will be much more restrictive than originally

## Gulf crisis gives hope to Brazil's arms firms

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — The Brazilian arms industry, faced with slumping sales and unpaid bills, is hoping to stave off bankruptcy by cashing in on the anticipated military buildup in the Middle East.

"It's obvious that a crisis such as the one in the Gulf could help our business," said a source at the Engesa armoured tank factory in Sao Paulo. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier this year, Engesa and Avibras, Brazil's two largest arms makers, requested protection from creditors for unpaid debts of about \$200 million.

Both companies traced the start of their financial woes to bills not paid by Iraq, for years their biggest client. Although arms sales are secret, a much-reported figure put Baghdad's purchases from Brazil at \$3 billion during the last 10 years.

The demand for weapons during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in which Brazil sold weapons to both sides — helped turn the South American country into the Third World's largest arms producer and exporter.

Sources close to the arms industry said Iraq still owes Engesa about \$90 million for hundreds of Urutu armoured personnel carriers, Cascavel reconnaissance and anti-aircraft combat vehicles and Jararaca troop carriers.

## Yeltsin links reforms to Ryzhkov dismissal

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had no choice but to sack his prime minister and adopt radical reforms to save the Soviet Union from collapse.

That oil price hike has caused petrol prices to rise significantly and has led many economists to predict that the economy, already burdened by a huge federal debt, a savings and loan crisis and a credit crunch at commercial banks, will slide into recession before the year is out.

The board said about 24 per cent of the respondents believe economic conditions are bad.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, August 25, 1990		Central Bank official rates
Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	655.0	659.0
Pound Sterling	1272.4	1280.0
Deutschmark	520.6	523.1
Swiss franc	516.1	519.2
French franc	125.4	126.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	447.1	449.8
Dutch guilder	373.6	375.8
Swedish krona	114.4	115.1
Italian lira (for 100)	56.7	57.0
Belgian franc (for 10)	204.8	206.0

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Madeline Tabar  
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**KAFROUN**  
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**PHILADELPHIA**

Samir Sabri - Maail Zayed  
In  
**Hell "2"**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## S. Arabia hikes oil output

DHAHRAN (R) — Saudi Arabia has raised oil production to 7.4 million barrels per day (b/d) to help make up a shortfall from U.N.-blockaded Iraq and Kuwait, a Saudi source has said.

"Production was 7.4 million b/d as of Friday. Production is now two million b/d more than it was," the source told reporters in Doha.

He told the Press Trust of India news agency that Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the Soviet Union had promised to supply enough for India's needs and that contracts with some of the countries were likely to be signed shortly.

An Indian team was in the Soviet Union negotiating for more oil, he said.

Oil from Iraq and Kuwait was to have provided more than 40 per cent of India's 19 million tonnes of oil imports for the current fiscal year which began April 1. The supplies have been halted by a United Nations trade embargo on Iraq.

Gurupadswamy estimated that the surge in oil prices would cost India an extra \$1 billion this fiscal year.

India currently meets 10 per cent of its needs with Iranian oil.

But its biggest supplier is the Soviet Union which accounts for 31.5 per cent of the country's needs.

### Fiat to cut production

ROME (R) — Auto giant Fiat has said it planned to slash car production by more than 10 per cent for the rest of the year because of slumping demand in Italy.

The cutback would force the temporary laying off of 35,000 workers in three week-long periods during which output would be suspended at several plants, company officials said.

Car output would fall to some 625,000 units, down 75,000 from the levels initially planned, they said.

Unions leaders representing the company's 117,000 carworkers told journalists they were prepared to accept the plan provided Fiat gave certain guarantees, including a pledge to maintain existing investment plans.

The programme still has to be approved by the government.

"I would have been better if we had two or three offers, but we can sell ICL with one offer," Refua told Reuters Saturday night.

Refua said the offer was reasonable, we only one."

He refused to disclose the terms of the bid, which will be studied by treasury officials. Gov-

ernment and industry officials have estimated the value of the stake at \$350 million.

Refua said that under the current plan, Israel would sell a controlling stake but retain a veto on decisions on operations deemed of national interest. The next stage would be to float 24 per cent of ICL shares on the Tel Aviv stock exchange.

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Refua would not comment on a radio report that British publisher Robert Maxwell, who had expressed an interest in ICL, sought an extension of the deadline to receive more financial data on the firm.

ICL, a holding company for several firms which exploit Israeli natural resources and produce fertilisers, phosphates and bromine, reported a record net profit of \$100.6 million for 1989.

Sales totalled nearly \$1.2 billion, including \$602 million in exports.

Company officials predicted profits would drop by up to 50 per cent this year because of falling prices on the world chemical market.

In addition to an uncertain business environment in the Middle East, political obstacles in Israel may also have helped to make ICL less attractive.

Parliament's finance committee, which must approve any sale, recommended last December that instead of a direct sale of ICL

"The first week they did nothing because they were worried about Iraq's response. The second week there was a lot of going back and forth as officials in the kingdom decided what to do," a source said.

"And the third week they began raising production," he added.

Oil prices soared more than 50 per cent after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait to \$31 per barrel, but have dropped back to about \$25.

Meanwhile, a Reuter survey shows some OPEC members quietly began boosting oil production just after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, even as they were publicly urging output restraint.

Data shows oil production dropped to 19.86 million barrels a day in August — down three million barrels a day — as the international trade embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil brought sharp production cuts in those countries.

But other OPEC members were rapidly opening up the tap.

Venezuela was another of the OPEC countries to increase output following the Iraqi invasion.

It increased output by 150,000 barrels to 2.1 million barrels.

An official source said Venezuelan production was even higher on some days, reaching 2.25 million to 3.0 million barrels in August, which is well above its OPEC quota of 1.945 million.

Iran's output rose 200,000 barrels to 3.2 million, versus its OPEC quota of 3.14 million, despite Iran's stated position after the Iraqi takeover that OPEC members should not try to fill the supply gap to the detriment of their common long-term interest.

## U.S. consortium makes only bid for Israel chemicals firm

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel received only one bid for a controlling stake in Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL), the first major state-owned firm to be sold under a privatisation programme, a finance ministry official has said.

Zeev Refua, head of the treasury's Government Corporations Authority, said the offer made by the Friday deadline came from a consortium comprising U.S.-based Israeli businessman Arye Genger, Chicago's Fritzker family and Great Lakes Chemical Corp.

The lone bid for 50 per cent stake in the profitable company appeared to be a setback for the privatisation scheme, which has faltered amid political opposition to the sale of state firms to foreign investors.

"I would have been better if we had two or three offers, but we can sell ICL with one offer," Refua told Reuters Saturday night.

"If the offer is reasonable, we only one."

He refused to disclose the terms of the bid, which will be studied by treasury officials.

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## Amnesty urges punishment for Khmer Rouge in killings

BANGKOK (AP) — Amnesty International said Monday that Khmer Rouge guerrillas who allegedly killed more than 50 people in two attacks on trains in Cambodia should be brought to justice.

Amnesty International said it has called on the three-party Cambodian guerrilla coalition, which includes the Khmer Rouge, to ensure that those responsible for the killings "are removed from their positions and brought to justice."

In a statement, the international human rights group said the victims apparently were singled out because they were employees of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

"At least 26 people were rounded up and shot dead when a

train was ambushed and stopped in Kompong Trach on July 1 and at least 30 others died in a similar incident in Kompong Chhnang on July 15," the statement said.

At Amnesty International's London headquarters, an official said the information came from sources who have been in contact with people in Cambodia and have confirmed the reports. He said the sources could not be identified.

Western journalists have quoted injured survivors at Phnom Penh hospitals as saying

the guerrillas killed several civilians in the July 15 attack. The survivors said land mines crippled the train and the Khmer Rouge fighters attacked with grenade launchers and machineguns.

At the time, the Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas killed 15 soldiers and wounded 15 but made no mention of civilian casualties.

The capital of Kompong Chhnang province, also called Kompong Chhnang, is about 90 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh. Kompong Trach is about 100 kilometers east of Phnom Penh.

The Communist Khmer Rouge is the strongest group in the guerrilla coalition, which also includes the non-Communist forces

### Police killed blacks without reason, South African judicial report says

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — An official commission has issued a stinging report saying police fired without reason on a protest last March, killing five blacks and wounding 156.

The report recommended a criminal probe.

The inquiry into police conduct at Sebokeng township last March 26 was one of the harshest criticisms of police conduct ever made by an official inquiry.

It said the marchers never threatened the police, and officers fired without orders.

The attorney general should investigate policemen who fired bullets for possible criminal action, said the report, which was released Saturday.

The report was authored by Justice R.J. Goldstone. It gave no indication what charges might be filed if action is taken.

Police "displayed an attitude of unconcern for the lethal nature of their ammunition... this is an

attitude which no police force should tolerate," the report said.

It was released at a time when police are under attack from the African National Congress (ANC), church groups and others for alleged bias and improper conduct in black factional fighting around Johannesburg.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, who supervises police, said Saturday that the case would be turned over to the attorney general for investigation. He also said there may be a police investigation.

The ANC said at least 12 people were killed in the shootings at the Sebokeng township south of Johannesburg. The march was to protest local housing conditions, rents and other grievances.

The report said one officer fired and others joined in when a mostly peaceful crowd tried to march to a police station.

"At most, the behaviour of the crowd may have justified the use

## Sri Lankan troops repulse attack on garrison, kill 26 Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — Troops defending a military garrison in the north repulsed a Tamil rebel attack and killed at least 26 guerrillas, military officials said Sunday.

In other fighting in the northeast, rebels killed five soldiers Saturday during an ambush on a military patrol near Kantalai, 205 kilometers from Colombo, the officials said.

Troops found the bodies of 26 rebels outside the Mullaitivu garrison after the defenders beat back a major onslaught Saturday. The officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Mullaitivu garrison, 290 kilometers northeast of Col-

ombo, has been under siege since the last 10 weeks, but the troops have held out against repeated mortar attacks.

On Saturday, the government imposed an indefinite curfew in Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Mannar, the predominantly Tamil districts in the north.

Announcing the curfew over state-owned radio, the government warned residents to stay indoors or risk being shot.

Military officials said the curfew would ease military operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel militia that has been fighting since 1983 for a separate nation.

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